

Observations from a Multi-Year International Summer Experience Program for Technology Management Graduate Students

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Abstract: For five years, the State University of New York at Binghamton has hosted different summertime cohorts of graduate students from the Graduate School of Innovation and Technology Management (I&TM) at KAIST University in Daejeon, South Korea. The purpose of the summer program is to provide international experience for these graduate students by pairing them on short-term projects within our university across different offices and personnel. The students engage with our university in a variety projects with entities including, but not restricted, to the following: the University-wide Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Partnerships, the Watson School's Office of Industrial Outreach, the Department of Systems Science and Industrial Engineering, and various research centers. This presentation will provide an overview of the types of projects they conduct. An important and typical aspect of these projects involve comparing and contrasting, from a USA or South Korean viewpoint, approaches to problem approach/resolution. In addition to the projects, students participate in company visits – often involving Q/A sessions with the company's CTO, a visit to our local technology museum, and a recent cohort participated in a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt program that we offer in the summer. Of course, we also include sight-seeing experiences for the students including trips to such places as Niagara Falls, the Finger Lakes, and others. In this five-years (and counting) program, the benefits have truly been mutual as we have gained valuable insight into how an international lens focuses attention on problems in the areas of technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation.

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